

A True and Exact

# ACCOUNT

O F

## The Retaking a Ship,

Called The

Friend's Adventure of Topsham,

FROM THE

# FRENCH;



After She had been Taken Six Days, and they were  
upon the Coasts of *France* with it Four Days.

WHERE,

One ENGLISHMAN and a BOY  
Set upon Seven French-Men,

Killed Two of them, took the other Five Prisoners,  
and brought the Ship and them safe to  
*England*.

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*Their Majesties Customs of the said Ship amounted to 1000 l. and upwards.*

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Performed and Written by  
ROBERT LYDE, Mate of the same Ship.

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L O N D O N,

Printed for R. Baldwin near the Oxford-Arms in Warwick-Lane, 1693.

A True and Faithful

# ACCOUNT

## The Raising a Ship

and the

Adventures of the

FRANCIS

# FRANCIS

As the ship had been taken in the night and they were upon the Coast of America, it was found that they were

WHERE

## ON ENGLISHMAN AND A BOY

and upon their return

After two of them, took the ship and then came to shore and brought the ship and then came to shore

10:10:15

and then came to shore

and then came to shore

and then came to shore

and then came to shore

---

Courteous Reader,

**I** Here present you with a Token of God's Almighty Goodness in relieving me, by his special Providence, from the Barbarity, Inhumanity and most cruel Slavery of the most Christian Turk of France, whose Delight it is to make his own Subjects Slaves, and his chief Study to put Prisoners of War to the most tedious and cruel lingering Deaths of Hunger and Cold, as I have experimentally (to my own Damage) both felt and seen, by a four Months Confinement in his Country.

Whereas, by their cruel Usage, I was reduced to the last gasp of Life, but through the merciful Goodness of God I did recover, notwithstanding upwards of 600 Prisoners, 400 were starved to death, as by the sequel more fully will appear. What I have written is really Matter of Fact, and it had never appeared in Print were it not to vindicate my self, and to free my self from the many Calumnies and Aspersions of unreasonable Men, who have not so much Civility as to commend the Action; but on the contrary, tell the World, That I attacked the French Men in cold Blood, and murdered the two Men I fairly kill'd; and that the Spirits of them have Haunted me ever since, and will till I am hang'd. Others say, That I retook the Ship without a Commission, and

and I might have as well took any other Ship, and so been hanged for a Pyrate. - And others, more unreasonably say, That the Boy solicited me for many days together to stand by him in this Attempt before I consented to it. - And others say, That I had the help of the Devil to bring home the Ship. And, therefore, to convince these, and to satisfy others, I have here represented you with an exact Relation of the whole Matter of Fact, with an Account of my bringing the Ship and Prisoners home together also, with the Ingratitude and Unkindness of the Owners of the Ship and Cargo to me. It is not so Methodical as I could wish it was, but I hope your Candor will excuse it ; for it was not Ambition, but Respect to my Native Country, together with the Reasons before hinted, that prompted me to make it publick. I shall detain you no longer, but wishing Prosperity to Their Majesties, and the Settlement and Happiness of these Nations, I subscribe my self,

Courteous Reader,

Your Cordial and

Real Friend,

ROBERT LYDE.



*A true and exact Account of the Retaking of the  
Friends Adventure of Topsham, from the French,  
after she had been taken six Days and upon the Coast  
of France four Days; by one Englishman and a  
Boy.*

**I**T is natural for all Men living to have a certain kind of a natural affection for the Country from whence they first their being; and every Man ought as much to vindicate his Native Country, as he would his own Posterity; for the fall or ruin of the one, is the Prodromus of the other; besides the Duty and Allegiance, which we owe (by Gods Command) to our most Gracious Sovereigns the King and Queen: And how much we ought at this time particularly to fight in vindication of all, I presume, none can be ignorant of; for if the Enemy fall upon and assault us with all the strength they have, we ought in like manner to resist as powerfully, and if unhappily they prove Victors at any time, this Book will inform you how cruelly they use their Prisoners of War (contrary to the antient custom of Nations) the very report of which, before I experimentally knew their Tyranny, did so exasperate me against them, that if I could possibly had any assistance (next to Providence) to have stood by me, I would never have gone into France a Captive at all; for I had resolved to my self rather to dye upon the Deck Fighting, than ever to be subject to those, that (Nero like) rejoyce over them that lie languishing under their Torments. And so I will first give you an account of my being taken the first time.

In the Month of February 1689. I Shipt my self on Board of a Pink, in *Topsham*, burthen eighty Tuns, Mr. *Isaack Stoneham* Master; Bound for *Virginia*, and from thence to *Topsham* again; and on the 18th of May following we arrived there; and after we had ta-

ken in our Lading, we set Sail homewards bound, with one hundred Sail of Merchant Men, under the Convoy of two Men of War; and about a Fortnight after the Winds separated us from our Convoy, so that our Ship with several others made the best of our way for *England*, but soon left each others company; and the 19<sup>th</sup> of *October* following, we came up with two *Plimouth* Vessels, that were of our said Fleet, being then about Forty Leagues to the Westward of *Scilly*, having the Wind Easterly; and on the 21<sup>st</sup> of the same Month, we saw four other Ships to Leeward of us, which we took to be some of our said Fleet, but one of them proved to be a *French* Privateer, who came up under our Lee-quarter, and went a-head of us, and took a *Verginea* Man of our former Fleet, belonging to *London*, which gave us three, an opportunity to make our escape from the said Privateer; but the two *Plimouth* Men being in great want of Provisions, and an Easterly Wind like to continue, they bore away for *Galisia* in *Spain*.

But our Ship kept on her way for *England*, and the Mate of our Ship and I, made an agreement (in case we should be taken by the *French*, and left on board our own Ship) although they should put ten Men on board with us, to carry the Ship and us to *France*, yet (if we lost sight of the Privateer) to stand by each other and attack them (and if it did please God that we should overcome them) and carry home the Ship. On the 24<sup>th</sup> of this Month, we were (as I feared) taken by a Privateer of *St. Malloes*, of twenty two Guns, eight Pattereroes, and one hundred and odd Men; but the Mates design and mine was spoiled, for we were put on board the Privateer with three more of our Men, and the Master with four Men and a Boy left on board, and eight French Men were put on board to Navigate the prize to *St. Malloes*. On the 26<sup>th</sup> we had as much Wind as could well blow at South South West that the Privateer could not take care of the Prize, and so left her, and in some time after she arriv'd at *Haverdegrace*: Then I made it my endeavour to perswade our Mate and the other Prisoners to attack the *French* Men, on board the Privateer, being very positive (vvith the assistance of God and theirs) to overcome them and carry home the Ship (with less trouble to my share than I found in this which is done) But they concluded it impossible, and so we continued attempting no resistance at all.

On

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of *October* we arrived at *St. Maloes*, and were carried on shore and imprisoned, and in all respect during the space of seventeen Days, were used with such Inhumanity and Cruelty, that if we had been taken by the *Turks* we could not have been used worse. For Bread we had six Pounds and one Cheek of a Bullock for every twenty five Men for a Day; and it fell out that he that had half of a Bullocks Eye ( for his Lot ) had the greatest share. This makes we wish that I could be the Prison keeper. and have my liberty to do the *Frenchmen* that are brought in, their Justice; they daily adding to our number, untill the Prison was so full that Swarms of Vermine increast amongst us ( not only here at *St. Maloes* but also at *Dinant*, whereunto we were removed) insomuch that many of our fellow Prisoners died, three of which were our Mates, and two more out of the five of our company; and all that did survive were become meer Skeletons: I was so weak that I could not put my Hand to my Head, and there died out of six hundred Men upwards of four hundred through their Cruelty in three Months time. They plunderd us of our Cloaths when we were taken; and some of us that had Money purchased Rugs to cover our Rags by day, and keep us warm by night; but upon our return home from *France* the Deputy Governour of *Dinant* ( in hopes either to kill us with Cold, or to disable us for their Majesties service at our return ) was so cruel as to order our said Rugs to be taken from us, and staid himself and saw it performed; and when some of our fellow Prisoners lay a dying, they inhumanely stript off some of their Cloaths, three or four days before they were quite Dead. These and other their Barbarities made so great an impression upon me, as that I did then resolve never to go a Prisoner there again, and this resolution I did ever since continue in, and by the assistance of God always will.

And so I was releast, and through the Goodness of God got to *England*; and after I had been at home so long as to recover my health and strength fit to go to Sea again, I Shipt my self as Mate of a Vessel of *Topsham*, burthen eighty Tun, *Roger Briant* Master, bound from thence to *Oporto* in *Portugal*, and from thence to *London*, and accordingly on the thirtieth Day of *September*, 1691. we began our Voyage, and on the twenty seventh of *December* following, we are arrived at *Oporto*, and on the twenty fourth of

*February* following, we set sail from thence to *London*. And on the twenty ninth day being then about twenty five Leagues North West from *Cape Finister*, about six in the Morning, we saw a Ship which came up with us a great pace; at ten in the Morning he was within half a League of us, and then put out *French* Colours and fired a Gun, whereby we knew he was a *Frenchman*.

Then I took a Rope yarn and seiz'd two patts of the Topfail Hilliers together, that our Men might not lower the Topfail, for I was desirous to have as much time as possible I could to hide some necessaries, to attack the *Frenchmen*, at which the Master (perceiving and knowing my intention) said, Mate! are you in the same mind now as you have been in all the Voyage ( for I had often been saying what I would do towards the retaking of our Ship ) I answered yes, and said that I did not question but with Gods Assistance to perform what I had said :. The Master said he believed I could not do it, but if I should, he thought it was impossible for me to carry home the Ship; notwithstanding all this I was not discouraged, but desired him to pray for a strong gale of Wind, after we were taken, that we might be separated from the Privateer, and be out of sight of her.

Then I went down in the Forecastle, and hid a Blunderbuss and Ammunition betwixt Decks amongst the Pipes of Wine, and before I went ast again, the Topfails were Lowered, and I perceiving that it would not be long before the Enemy would be on board us, I took a five Gallon Vessel of my own Wine, and with a Hammer beat in one Head, and put several Pounds of Sugar in it, and then drank to the Master, and said that I designed that I would drink my fill of it, while I had the command of it, and if it should please God, that I should be continued on board, I hoped that I should not be long dispossess'd of the rest.

Betwixt ten and eleven a Clock by the Privateers command we hauled up the Coasts, and brac't to; then the Privateers Boat full of Men came on board us, and I leapt over the side, with my Hat under my Arm, handing the *French* Gentlemen in, till one of them took hold of my Coat, and I not daring to resist him, helpt it off, and run ast into the Cabbin and sav'd my self from further damage.

After they had taken away almost all our Clothes, and what else they pleased, the Lieutenant ordered me and a Boy to stay on Board, which



which I was very glad of, but could heartily have wished they had left a Man in the Boys room ; before the Master and I parted ( for he and four of our Men and a Boy were carried on board the Privateer ) I asked him privately what he had done with the Money he had in a Bag ? He told me he had given it to the Lieutenant, and withal would know of me why I made that inquiry ; I answered because I did not question but I should have secured that on board, by retaking our Ship ; but the Master said it was an impossible thing to be done : But I replied, altho it seemed to him to be so, yet nothing was impossible to be effected by God, in whom I put my trust.

Soon after the Lieutenant and our Men return'd aboard the Privateer, having left seven of his Men on board our Ship, to Navigate her to *St. Maloes*, who in three hours time was out of our sight, which I was very glad of, and askt the Master if I should fetch a Barril of Wine up, in hopes to make them drunk, and then I should command them with the less trouble ? He said I might if I could find one ; then I fetched a Barril of five Gallons of sweet strong Wine, and kept it rapt in the Steeridge, and I drank freely of it, hoping that they thereby would be induced to do the like, and so drink to excess ; but that Strategem failed me ( for they never were the worse for drinking all the time I was their Prisoner ) and then I acquainted the Boy with my intent, and perswaded him to assist me in overcoming them, and I would with the assistance of God carry the Ship to *Gallisia* in *Spain*. I continued soliciting him for his compliance in that, and the third for *England*, but could not prevail with him.

On the third of *March* we saw *Usbent* in the Night ; we being within two Ships length of the *Fern* Rock and in great danger of being lost, they called up me and the Boy to save our lives ; and when I came up and saw that the *Frenchmen* had got the Tackle in the Boat and going to hoist her out. I told the Boy to stay aft, for when the Boat is overboard they may go all in her, if they will, but they shall not come aboard again ; for I will not leave the Ship, because I shall get the Ship off presently, for the Wind was West North West, and the *Frenchmen* never minded to trim the Sails close by the Wind. And I would not tell them of it ( because I would get them out of the Ship ) till I saw, they did not get out the Boat but gaz'd at the Rock and some cry'd and others call'd to Saints for deliverance, then I desir'd ( and helpt ) them to trim the Sails, and got the Ship soon off again.

On



On Friday at noon we being about ten Leagues to the Eastward of *Brest*, with the Wind Easterly, they bore away for *Port-bean* (or some such name they call'd it) which was about four or five Leagues to the Eastward of *Brest*; then I call'd the Boy down betwixt Decks and read two or three Chapters in the Bible, and then used all my endeavour to persuade him to assist me, but by all the Arguments I could use I could not prevail at this time: Then I took a Brick and whet my Knife upon it, and told the Boy I would not use my Knife upon any account till I was carried into *France*, except it were to cut the Throats of the *Frenchmen*, at which words the Boy startled as if his own Throat had been cutting, and then left me, and went upon the Deck.

At four in the Afternoon we were within half a Mile of the afore-said Harbour; then the *Frenchmen* fired a Pattereroe for a Pilot to come off, whereupon I went upon Deck with a sorrowful Heart to see how near we were to the Shore (but the *Frenchmen* were as joyful as I was Melancholy) and then considering the inhumane usage I formerly had in *France*, and how near I was to it again, struck me with such terror that I could stay no longer upon Deck, but went down betwixt Decks and prayed to God for a Southerly Wind, to prevent her going into that Harbour, which God was graciously pleased immediately to grant me, for which I returned my unfeigned thanks.

Friday night the Wind was Westerly, and Saturday Southerly, so that in the Evening I heard the *Frenchmen* say that they saw *Cape-farril*. At eight on the Saturday night, I prayed again for a South West Wind, that we might not be near the Shore in the Morning, and immediately I heard them put the Helm a Lee, and put her about, and got the Larboard tacks aboard. The Boy then lying by my side, I bid him go up and see if the Wind was not South-west, which he accordingly did, and at his return told me it was, and that the Ship lay off North North-west; then I rejoiced and gave God thanks for this second signal providence.

The nearer we came to *St. Malloes*, the surlier the *Frenchmen* were to me. At twelve a Clock on Saturday night they call'd me to the Pump (as they had done several times before) although I never went but when I pleased, nor would I do any thing else for them, thinking it much inferiour for an *Englishman* to do any thing for a *Frenchman*,

*Frenchman*, but they calling on me several times, at last I turn'd out and stood in the Gun room Scuttle, and told the Master that I had served two years for the *French* already, and if I went to *France* again, I should serve three years. That's *Bien*, said the Master. Then I told him that I had nothing in the Ship to lose, and if they would not pump themselves the Ship should sink for me: Then I went and laid my self down again, fully resolved that if they came to hawl me out by force, that I would make resistance, and kill or wound as many of them as I could before I died my self, but they let me alone; and all that night when the Boy was awake, I endeavoured to persuade him to assist me, but still could not prevail, tho' I used (as I had done ever since we were taken) many arguments; so that that night I slept but very little; and when I did slumber at all I dream't that I was attacking the *Frenchmen*. For Sleeping or waking my mind run upon the attacking of them.

Sunday at seven in the Morning, we being then about five Leagues off from *Cape-farril*, I then prayed heartily for a South-south East Wind, and immediately I heard them take in their Top Sails, and haul'd up the Foresail, and brac't them a-back, and lasht the Helm a Lee, and let the Ship drive off with her Head to the Westward. Then I sent the Boy up again to see if the Wind was not come at South South-East, and he brought me word it was. Then I gave God thanks and rejoiced at his signal providential mercy on me, and for so immediately strengthening my Faith, and confirming my hopes of redeeming my self from slavery, and then I renewed my solicitation to the Boy, to yield to me, but still he would not consent, which made me think of attempting it my self, and then I went and took Pint of Wine, and half a Pint of Oil, and drank it to make me more fit for action.

At eight in the Morning all the *Frenchmen* sat round the Cabbin Table at Breakfast, and they call'd me to eat with them, and accordingly I accepted of their invitation, but the sight of the *Frenchmen* did immediately take away my Stomach, and made me sweat as if I had been in a Stove, and was ready to faint with eagerness to encounter them; which the Master perceiving, and seeing me in that condition, asked me (in *French*) if I were sick, and because he should not mistrust any thing, I answered, yes! But could stay no longer in sight of them, and so went immediately down betwixt Decks

to the Boy, and did earnestly intreat him to go up presently with me, into the Cabbin and to stand behind me, and knock down but one Man in case two laid hold on me, and I would kill and command all the rest presently ; for now I told him was the best time for me to attack them while they be all round the Table, for now I shall have them all before me purely, and it may be never the like opportunity again. After many importunities the Boy asked me after what manner I intended to encounter with them ; I told him I would take the Crow of Iron and hold it on the middle with both Hands, and I would go into the Cabbin and knock down him that stood at the end of the Table on my right Hand, and stick the point of the Crow into him that sat at the end of the Table on my Left Hand, and then for the other five that sat behind the Table : But still he not consenting, I had second thoughts of undertaking it without him, but the Cabbin was so low that I could not stand upright in it by a Foot, which made me at that time desist.

By this time they had eat their Breakfast and went out upon the Deck ; then I told the boy with much trouble we had lost a brave opportunity, for by this time I had had the Ship under my command. Nay, says the Boy, I rather believe that by this time you and I should have both been killed.

In a little time after they had been upon Deck they separated from each other, *viz.* the Master lay down in his Cabbin, and two of the Men lay down in the great Cabbin, and one in a Cabbin between Decks, and another sat down, upon a low Stool by the Helm, to look after the Glass, to call to Pump ( which they were forced to do every half hour, by reason of the leakiness of the Ship ) and the other two Men walked upon the Decks : Then hoping I should prevail with the Boy to stand by me ( if not, resolved to attack them my self ) I immediately applied my self to prayer, and desiring God to pardon my Sins, which I had committed, and to receive my Soul and the Boys to Mercy, for I thought if they overcame me they would give the Boy no quarter ( altho' he did nothing against them ) I prayed also for my Enemies who should happen to dye by my Hands, because they may not have time to call for mercy themselves ; I prayed also that God would strengthen me in my design, that my heart not fail in the Action.

And

And then I endeavoured again to persuade the Boy, telling him that we should bring a great deal of Honour to our Native Country, besides the particular Honour which would accrew to our selves; but all this, and much more to that purpose ( too long to be here insisted on ) would not prevail with him to consent.

Then the Glass was out, it being half an hour after eight, and the two Men that were upon Deck went to pump out the Water: Then I also went upon Deck again, to see whether the Wind and Weather were like to favour my Enterprize, and casting my Eyes to Windward, I lik'd the Weather and hop'd the Wind would stand, and that they might not mistrust any thing, upon the account of my coming upon Deck, I took an occasion to make Water, and then immediately went down to the Boy, and begd of him again to stand by me, while two of the Men were at the Pump ( for they Pump on the Starboard side, and the Steeridge Door open on the Larboard side, so that they could not see me go ast, to them in the Cabin ) But I could by no perswasions prevail with the Boy, so that by this time the Men had done Pumping, whereupon losing this opportunity caused me again to be a little angry with the Boy, for not yielding to me, telling him that I had prayed three times for the change of the Wind, and God was pleased to hear my Prayers, and to grant me my request, and thereupon I had a firm belief wrought in me that I should not be carried a Prisoner again into *France*, where I had suffered such great hardship and misery; our allowance of food at *St. Malloes* (where we were kept Prisoners for seventeen Days) was only one Cheek of a Bullock, and eight Pound weight of Bread, for twenty five Men a Day, and only Water to drink: And at *Dinant* where we were kept close Prisoners for three Months and ten Days, our allowance was three Pound weight of an old Cow Beef, without any Salt to favour it, for seven Men a Day; but I think we had two Pounds of Bread for each Man, but it was so bad that Dogs would not eat it, neither could we eat but very little, and that that we did eat did us more hurt than good, for 'twas more Orts than Bread, so we gave some of it to the Hogs, and made Pillows of the rest to lay our Heads on, for they allow'd us fresh Straw but once every five weeks, so that we bred such swarms of Lice in our Rags that one Man had a great Hole eaten through his Throat by them, which was not perceived till after his Death, and I my self was so weak that it was



fourteen weeks after my releasment, before I recovered any toller-  
 able measure of strength again. And all this through their Cruel Ti-  
 ranny in not allowing us as their Men are allowed in *England*. Said the  
 the Boy, if I do find it so bad as you do say, when I am in *France*  
 I will go along with them in a Privateer. These words of his struck  
 me to the Heart, which made me say, You Dog, what will you go with  
 them against your King and Country and Father and Mother? Sarrah I  
 I was in *France* a Prisoner four Months and my Tongue cannot express  
 what I indur'd there, yet I would not turn Papist and go with them;  
 yet they came daily persuading me and others to go out, and the time  
 that I was there I think seventeen turn'd Papists, and were kept in a  
 room by themselves; but God was pleas'd to make an example of  
 them, for I think twelve of them died while I was there. And if  
 thou dost turn Papist, thou mayst fare as they did, and if thou  
 or any of them that be turn'd be ever taken again, you will certainly  
 be hang'd in *England* by the Law: But if I had the Command of a  
 Privateer, and should take my Brother in a *French* Privateer after he  
 had saild willingly with them, I would hang him immediately. I see-  
 ing the Boy seem'd to be reconcil'd, I told him that he should not go  
 into *France*, if he would do as I would have him to do. The Boy  
 askt what I would have him to do? I told him to knock down that  
 Man at the Helm Sickore, and I will kill and command all the rest,  
 presently. Saith the Boy if you be sure to overcome them, how many  
 do you count to kill? I answered; that I intended to kill three of them;  
 Then the Boy replied, why three? and no more? I answered, that I  
 would kill three for three of our Men that died in Prison when I  
 was there. And if it should please God that I should get home safe  
 to *England*, I would if I could go in a Man of War, or Fireship,  
 and endeavour a revenge on the Enemy for the Death of those four  
 hundred Men that died in the same Prison of *Dinant*. But the Boy  
 said, four alive would be too many for me. I then replied I would  
 kill but three, but I would break the Legs and Arms of the rest, if  
 they wont take Quarter, and be quiet without it. Then the Boy asked  
 me which three I designed to kill? I told him I designed to kill  
 those three that I judged to be the strongest, which were those that  
 carried themselves most furly towards me; but if any one of the  
 rest did take hold on me, and that my life were in danger, I would  
 then endeavour to kill a fourth, and not otherwise. Then said  
 the



the Boy what do you intend to do with the other *French Men*, that shall remain alive? I answered I will command three of them down in the Fore-pike and nail down the Scuttle upon them, and I would keep the fourth above Deck, to help to carry the Ship for *England*. Then the Boy asked me, how I thought to carry the Ship to *England*, with only the assistance of him, and one *French Man*? I answered I did not at all question that, but I did verily believe that I should carry the Ship safe to an Anchor, either in *Plimouth*, or *Dartmouth*, before twelve a Clock the next Day; for this is a fair Wind for that purpose. But said the Boy, how do you think to Pump out the Water, seeing the Ship is so very Leaky, and to have time to refresh our selves with Sleep, for it may be a longer time than you suppose, before we shall come to an Anchor? I answered, that the assistance of God would be sufficient to enable us to do all this and more; for the Joy for overcoming of them will banish Sleep from my Eyes, and Work will weary me but little.

The Boys asking me these several questions did encourage me to hope that he would at last be prevail'd with to stand by me, and still he proceeded in his inquiries, and asked me how I did intend to attack them? I told him, I would take the Crow of Iron (and hold it with both Hands in the middle of it) and go into the Cabbin and knock down one with the Claws, and strike the point into the other that lay by his side in the Cabbin, and I would wound the Master in his Cabbin, and do thou take the Drivebolt and be sure to knock down the Man at the Helm, so soon as you hear me strike the first blow, for otherwise if he should hear the blow he may come into the Cabbin, and lay hold on me before I shall overcome them three.

And I resolv'd to my self (of which I said nothing to the Boy) that if they should all rise against me, before I could get into the Cabbin, I would then strike at them, and either kill them, or do them as much hurt as I could before I died my self; concluding that after I had once begun, if I should yield, yet then I should certainly dye by them, and therefore did resolve to sell my life as dear as I could.

Then the Boy asked me what he should do when he had knock'd down the Man at the Helm? I told him he should stand without the Cabbin Door, and not stir from thence, but to have his eye upon the two *French Men* that were upon Deck, and not to come into the Cabbin to me, unless he observed them coming towards

the Cabbin, and then he should tell me of it, and come into the Cabbin.

At nine in the Morning, the two Men upon Deck went to pumping; then I turned out from the Sail, where the Boy and I then lay'd, and pull'd off my Coat that I might be the more nimble in the Action; and having little Hair, I hald off my Cap, that if they had the fortune to knock me in the Head, they might kill me with it. Having fitted my self for the Action I went up the Gun room Scuttle into the Steeridge, to see what posture they were in, and being satisfied therein, I leapt down the Scuttle, and went to the Boy ( who seeing me resolv'd upon the Action, ) with an earnest entreaty to him to joyn with me; he at last did consent.

Then the Boy coming to me, I leapt up the Gun room Scuttle, and said ; Lord be with us, and strengthen us in the Action : and I told the Boy that the Drive Bolt was by the Scuttle, in the Steeridge, and then I went softly ast into the Cabbin, and put my Back against the Bulke-head, and took the Iron Crow ( it lying without the Cabbin Door ) and held it with both my Hands in the middle of it, and put my Legs abroad to shorten my self, ( because the Cabin was very low ). But he that lay nighest to me, hearing me, opened his eyes, and perceiving my intent, and upon what account I was coming, he endeavoured to rise, to make resistance against me ; but I prevented him by a Blow upon his Forehead, which mortally wounded him, and the other Man which lay with his back, to the dying mans side, hearing the Blow, turned about and faced me, and as he was rising with his left elbow upon the Deck, very fiercely endeavouring to come against me ; I struck at him, and he let himself fall from his left Arm, and held his Arm for a Guard, whereby he did keep off a great part of the Blow, but still his Head receiv'd a great part of the Blow. .

The Master lying in his Cabbin on my right hand ( hearing the two Blows ) rose, and fate in his Cabbin, and seeing what I had done, he call'd me *Boogra*, and *Footra*, but I having my eyes every way, I push't at his Ear betwixt the Turn-pins with the Claws of the Crow, but he falling back for fear thereof, it seem'd afterwards that I struck the Claws of the Crow into his Cheek, which Blovv made him lye still, as if he had been Dead; and vvhile I struck at the Master, the Fellow that fended off the Blovv vvith his Arm, rose upon his Legs, and

and running tovwards me, vvith his Head lovv, for I suppose he intended to run his Head against my Breast to overset me, but I pusht the point at his Head, and stuck it an inch and a half into his Forehead, ( as it appear'd since by the Chirurgeon, that searched the Wound ) and as he vvvas falling dovvvn, I took hold of him by the Back, and turn'd him in to the Steeridge.

I heard the Boy strike the Man at the Helm, tvvo Blovvvs, after I knock't down the first Man, which tvvo Blows made him lye very still, and as soön as I turn'd the Man out of the Cabbin, I struck one Blovv more at him, that I struck first, ( thinking to leave no Man a live farther aft than my self ) and burst his Head, so that his Blood and Brains run out upon the Deck.

The Master all this vvwhile did not stir, vvwhich made me conclude that I had struck him under the Ear, and had kill'd him vvith the Blovv.

Then I vvvent out to attack the tvvo Men that vvvere at the Pump, vvhere they continu'd pumping, vvithout hearing, or knowving what I had done; and as I was going to them, I saw that Mân, that I had turn'd out of the Cabbin into the Steeridg, Crawling out upon his hands, and knees, upon the Deck, beating his hands upon the Deck, to make a noise, that the Men at the Pump might hear ( for he could not cry out, nor speak ) And when they heard him, and seeing his Blood running out of the hole in his Forehead, they came running aft to me, grinding their Teeth as if they would have eaten me; but I met them as they came vvithin the Steeridg Door, and struck at them, but the Steeridg being not above four foot high, I could not have a full Blow at them, whereupon they fended off the Blow, and took hold of the Crow, with both their hands close to mine, striving to hawl it from me; then the Boy might have knock't them down with much ease, vvwhile they were contending with me, but that his heart fail'd him, so that he stood like a Stake, at a distance on their left side, and two foots length off the Crow being behind their hands, on their left side, I call'd to the Boy, to take hold of it, and hawl as they did, and I would let it go all at once, vvwhich the Boy accordingly doing, I push't the Crow towards them, and let it go, and was taking out my Knife, to traverse amongst them, but they seeing me put my right hand into my Pocket, fearing what would follow, they both let go the Crow to the Boy, and took hold of my right Arm,

Arm, with both their Hands, grinding their Teeth at me.

The Master that I thought I had kill'd in his Cabbin, coming to himself, and hearing they had hold of me, came out of his Cabbin, and also took hold of me, with both his hands round my middle: Then one of the Men that had hold of my right Arm, let go, and put his Back to my Breast, and took hold of my left Hand and Arm, and held it close to his Breast, and strove to cant me upon my Back; and the Master let go from my middle, and took hold of my right Arm, and he with the other, that had hold of my right Arm, did strive to turn me over from the others Back, thinking to get me off from my Legs; but I knowing that I should not be long in one piece if they got me down, I put my left Foot against the Ship side, on the Deck, for a supporter, and with the assistance of God, I kept upon my feet, when they three and one more did strive to throw me down (for the Man that the Boy knock'd down at the Helm, rose up and put his Hands about my middle, and strove to hawl me down) the Boy seeing that Man rise, and take hold of me, cryed out, fearing then that I should be overcome by them, but did not come to help me, nor did not strike one Blow at any of them neither did they touch him all the time.

When I heard the Boy cry out, I said, Do you cry you Villain now I am in such a condition? Come quickly, and knock this Man on the Head that hath hold on my left Arm; the Boy perceiving that my Heart did not fail me, he took some courage from thence, and endeavour'd to give that man a blow on his Head, with the Drive-bolt, but struck so faintly that he mist his Blow, which greatly enraged me against him; and I feeling the *French man*, that held about my Middle, hang very heavy, I said to the Boy, do you miss your Blow, and I in such a Condition? Go round the Binicle, and knock down that Man that hangeth upon my Back, (which was the same Man the Boy knock't down at the Helm) so the Boy did strike him one Blow upon the Head, which made him fall, but he rose up again immediately, but being incapable of making any further resistance, he went out upon Deck staggering to and fro, without any further Molestance from the Boy. Then I look't about the Beams for a Marlin-speak, or any thing else to strike them withal, but seeing nothing; I said, Lord what shall I do! and then casting my eye upon my left side, and seeing a Marlin-speak hanging with a strap to a Nail, on the Larbord side, I jerk't my right Arm forth and back, which clear'd the two  
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Mens Hands from my right Arm, and took hold of the Marlin speek, and struck the point four times, about a quarter of an Inch deep into the Skull of that Man, that had hold of my left Arm, before they took hold of my right Arm again; but I struck the Marlin-speek into his Head, three times, after they had hold of me vvhich caused him to screech out; but they having hold on me, took off much of the force of the three last Blows, and he being a strong-hearted man, he would not let go his hold of me, and the two Men finding that my right Arm, was stronger than their four Arms were, and observing the strap of the Marlin-speek; to fall up and down upon the back of my Hand, as struck him that had his Hands nearest to mine, he let go his right Hand, and took hold of the Strap, and hawled the Marlin-speek out of my Hand, and I fearing what in all likelyhood would follow, I put my right Hand before my Head for a Guard, altho three Hands had hold of that Arm, for I concluded he would knock me on the Head with it, or else throw it at my Head, (But through Gods wonderful Providence) it either fell out of his Hand, or else he threw it down; for it did fall so close to the Ship side, that he could not reach it again, without letting go his other Hand from mine, so he did not attempt the reaching of it, but took hold of my Arm with his other Hand again.

At this time the Almighty God gave me strength enough to take one Man in one Hand, and throw at the others Head, and looking about again to see for any thing to strike them withal, but seeing nothing, I said, Lord, what shall I do now! And then it pleased God to put me in mind of my Knife in my Pocket, and altho two of the Men had hold of my right Arm, yet God Almighty strengthened me so, that I put my right Hand into my right Pocket, and took out my Knife and Sheath, holding it behind my Hand that they should not see it, but I could not draw it out of the Sheath with my left Hand, because the Man that I struck in the Head with the Marlin-speek, had still hold of it, with his Back to my Breast; so I put it between my Legs, and drew it out, and then cut that Mans Throat with it, that had his Back to my Breast; and he immediately dropt down and scarce ever stir'd after. Then with my left Arm, I gave both the Men a push from me, and hawld my right Arm with a jerk to me, and so clear'd it of both of them, and fetching a stroke with an intent to cut both their Throats at once; they immediately apprehending the danger they were



were in, they both put their Hands together, and held them up crying *Corte, Corte Monsieur moy allay pur Angleterre si vou plea.* With that I stopt my Hand, and said good Quarter you shall have, *alle a Pro*; and then I put up my Knife into the Sheath again, but they not obeying my command, but standing still, I concluded they had a mind to have the other bout with me; but I drew out my Knife again, resolving to cut their Throats, but then their Countenances immediately changed, and they put off their Hats and said, *Moy alle pro Monsieur, Moy travallay pur Angleterre si vou plea.* Then I stopt my Hand again, and they went out upon Deck, and went forwards.

Then I held fast the Steeridg Door, and ordered the Boy to stand by it, and to keep it fast, and to look out through the Blunderbuss-Holes, and if he did see any Man coming towards the Door, with any thing in his Hand to open the Door, he should tell me of it, and come into the Cabbin, for the Blunderbuss and Ammunition, which I hid away before we were taken, the *French* Men had found and kept it in the Cabbin, which after I had loaden I came out with it into the Steeridg, and lookt forward (out the Companion) to see if any Man did lyē over the Steeridg Door, with a bait of a Rope to throw over me, or any other thing that might prejudice me, as I should go out; but seeing no Man there, I went out upon Deck and lookt up to the Maintop, for fear the two wounded Men were there, and should throw down any thing upon my Head to do me an injury, but seeing no Man there, I asked the Boy, if he could tell what was become of the two wounded Men that came to themselves and went out upon the Deck while I was engaged with the three Men in the Steeridg; the Boy told me they scrambled over-board, for he said he lookt through the Blunderbuss Holes in the Bulk head, and saw them staggering to and fro like Men that were drunk. But I thought it very strange that they should be necessary to their own Deaths.

Then I ordered the Boy to stand by the Steeridg Door to see, if that Man betwixt Decks did come up, and if he did, to tell me of it and come forward to me, which he promised me to do.

Then I went forward to the two Men that cried for Quarter, who stood by the Boat side, but they being afraid ran forwards and were going up in the Fore-shrouds, but I held up the Blunderbuss

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at them, and said, *veni abau et monte a Cuttelia & ally abau*, and then they put off their Hats, and said *Monsieur moy travalli pur Angleterre si vouplea*, but I answered, *alle abau*, for I don't want your help, and then they said, *ouy Mounseur*, and unlid the Scuttle and went down. Then I went forward, and as I came before the foot of the Main-sail, I lookt up to the Fore-top, and seeing no Man there I went and lookt down in the Fore castle, and shewd the two Men a Scuttle on the Larbord side that went down into the Fore-peak, and said, *le Monte Cuttelia & ally abau*, They answered, *ouy Mounseur*, and then unlid the Scuttle, and put off their Hats and went down, giving God thanks for his mercy towards them, in giving them a longer Life.

Then I call'd down to them, and asked them if they saw any Men betwixt Decks before they went down, and they answered no. Then I call'd forward the Boy and gave him the Blunderbuss and bid him present it down the Fore-castle, and if he saw any Men take hold of me, so that I could not get clear of them, or if I call'd on him for his help, then he should be sure to discharge the Blunderbuss at us, and kill us all together if he could not shoot them without me; the Boy promised me he would, but he would not shoot me.

Then I took the Boys Bolt and put my Head down the Scuttle, and lookt all round, and seeing no Man there I leapt down in the Fore-castle, and lookt that round also; but seeing no Man betwixt Decks, I laid the Scuttle and nail'd it fast, and thought my self safe, seeing two were killed, and two secured.

Then I went upon Deck, and took the Blunderbuss from the Boy and gave him the Bolt, and went aft, and ordered the Boy as before to stand by the Steeridg Door, and give me an account if he saw any Man come towards him, with a Hand-spike; and then I went aft into the Cabbin, and cut two Candles in four pieces and lighted them, one I left burning upon the Table, the other three I carried in my Left Hand, and the Blunderbuss in my Right Hand, and I put my Head down the Gun room Scuttle and lookt round, and seeing no Man there, I leapt down and went to the Man that lay all this time asleep in a Cabbin betwixt Decks, and took him by

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the Shoulder with my Left Hand and wakened him, and presented the Blunderbuss at him with my Right Hand, and commanded him out of his Cabbin, and made him stand still, till I got up into the Steeridg; then I call'd the Man, and he standing in the Scuttle, and seeing the Man that had his Throat cut, almost buried in his Blood, he wrung his Hands, crying out *O Jesu Maria*, and calling upon some other Saints: I told him, I had nothing to do with *Maria* now, *monte, monte et ally a Pro*; then he came up, and went forward, looking round to see for his Companions, but I followed him, and made him go down into the Fore-castle, and stand on the Star-board side; then I gave the Boy the Blunderbuss, and ordered him to present it at the Man, and if he perceived him either to come towards me, or to take any thing to throw at me, while I was opening the Scuttle, then to shoot him.

Then I took the Crow of Iron and leapt down with it, into the Fore-castle, and drew the Spikes, and opened the Scuttle, and went upon Deck, and bid the Man go down, which he readily did, and rejoyc'd when he had found two of his Companions there, and after I had nailed down the Scuttle again, I went aft, and ordered the Boy to stand by the Steeridg Door again, and I took the Candles, and the Blunderbuss, and went down betwixt Decks, and went forward and aft, and lookt in all the Holes and Corners, for the two wounded Men, but found them not, and finding the Gun-room Scuttle open that went down into the Hold, I call'd down, but hearing none make answer, I laid the Scuttle; and there being about twenty Bags of Shumack in the Gun-room, I rouled two of them upon the Scuttle of six hundred weight, and rouled more close to them, that if the Men were there, and did lift up one side of the Scuttle the Bags might not roul off. Then I went upon Deck, and told the Boy, I could not find the two Men, betwixt Decks, and he said they were certainly run overboard. I told him I would know what was become of them before I made sail.

Then I told the Boy, I would go up into the Maintop, and see if they were there; and then I should be sure to see them if they were in the Fore-top; so I gave him the Blunderbuss, and bid him

him present it at the Main-top, and if he saw any Man look out over the top, with any thing in his Hand to throw at me, he should then Shoot them. Then I took the Boys Bolr, and went up, and when I was got to the Puddick Shrouds I look'd forwards to the Fore-top, I saw the two Men there covered with the Fore-top-sail and their Sashtes bound about their Heads to keep in the Blood, and keep their Heads warm, and they had made a great part of the Fore-top-sail Bloody, and as the Ship rould the Blood run over the top.

Then I call'd to them, and they turn'd out, and went down upon their knees, and wrung their Hands and cried *O Corte, Corte Monsieur, moy allay pur Angleterre si vou plea*: Then I said Good Quarter you shall have, and I went down, and call'd to them to come down, and he that the Boy vvounded, came down and kist my Hand over and over, and vvent dovvn into the Fore-castle very vvillingly: But the other Man vvvas one of the three, that I designed to kill, and the same that I struck the Crovv into his Forehead, and he knevv that he had said ill things of the Prince of *Orange*, meaning our Gracious King, and that an *English* Man of War vvvas no better than a Louse, and did alvvays call me up to Pump, these things I suppose he thought I had not forgot, and that therefore I vvould not give him Quarter, notvvithstanding I intended to do, but I suspected him to be an *English* or *Irish* Man, and I vvvas resolved if he proved so, that I vvould hang him my self vvhen it did please God that I had help coming aboard from *England*; so I called him down, but he being unwilling, delayed his coming: I took the Blunderbuss and said that I would Shoot him down, and then he came a little way, and stood still, and begged me to give him Quarter, and if I would, he then would *trevally pur Angleterre*, and also Pump the Water. I told him if he would come down he should have Quarters, and I presented the Blunderbuss at him again, and then he came a little lower, and said *O Mounseieur vou battera moy*. I told him that I would not beat him, and withal I would discourse with him no longer, if he would come down he might, if not I would Shoot him down, and then he came down and I gave the Boy the Blunderbuss, and the *French* Man took my

Hand, and wrung it, and kist it over and over, and call'd me his *boon Mounseur* and told me he would help to carry the Ship for *England*. I told him I did not want his help, and commanded him down in the Forecastle. Then I made them both stand on the Star-board side, and ordered the Boy to Shoot them, if they offered to throw any thing at me, or came near to me, while I went down in the Fore-castle to unnaile the Scuttle.

Then I took the Crow of Iron, and leapt down into the Fore-castle and unnailed the Scuttle, and commanded the two *French* Men down, into the Hold, and I call'd one of the Men up, that cried first for Quarter, to help me to sail the Ship, for *England*: This Man was not wounded at all, and was not above twenty four years of age, and I had least fear of him, because he was indifferent kind to me, while I was their Prisoner; but he was very unwilling to come up, but with much importunity I prevaild with him to come up.

And I sent him aft; and then laid the Scuttle, and naild a piece of Oaken Plank to each Beam with Spikes over it, and I bid them get from under the Scuttle, and I split the Scuttle with the Crow, and drove it down into the Hold to give them Air.

Then I went afr, and commanded the Man to help haul out the two Men that were dead, which he accordingly did, and so we threw them overboard; but before I threw them both, I took a Sash from one of them, because it was Red, on purpose to make fast about the white Antient, which the *French* Man put on board, and put it out for a Whiff, when occasion should require it, and I searched his Pocket for a Steel and Flint, but found none, for want whereof, I was forced to keep two Candles always burning in the Cabbin, till I got the *Pilates* on board from *Topsham*. Now being about

Leagues off *Cape-faril* which made half an hour after nine of the Clock, and the Glas being almost out, and having secured all the Men, I ordered the Boy to put the Blunderbuss in the Boat, for him to command the *French* Man withal, when



when I was doing any thing. Then I sent the *French* Man to loose the Helm, and put him a weather, and wared the Ship, and with the assistance of God I had to cost three Topails the Sprit-sail and Mizzen, trimm'd in less than an hours time, to make the most of a fair wind.

Then I gave down to them in the Hold, a Basket of Bread, and Butter, and a Gimlet, and Spikes, and ordered them to draw, and drink of one of my own Casks of Wine which I had there, because if they should draw out a Pipe, they might not find the hole in the dark, and so spill a great deal of Wine, and I gave them down their Cloaths, and some old Sails to lye upon ; I gave them likewise a Bottle of Brandy, to wash their Wounds, and Salve which they brought on board, and Candles to see to dress their Wounds, and having no more necessaries for them, I was sorry to see him that the Boy vvounded, because he vv as very bad of his Wounds.

After vve had been some time Steering our Course for *England*, the Boy asked me vvhat I vvould do if vve should meet vvith a *French* Privateer ? I said I did not question but ( with the help of God ) vve should be either in *Dartmouth*, or *Plimouth*, before tvelve a Clock the next day, and if I should see any Ship that vvill speak vvith me, and I can't get from him, I vvill either shoot all the *French* Men, or knock them all on the Head, that vv ere on board, and heave them overboard ; for I dont look for any mercy from the *French* if these live or die, and if it fall out to be an *English* Ship, then they will help to carry our Ship to *England*.

The Wind held S. S. E. till three in the Afternoon, and then veerd to the Westward ( then I gave God thanks as I had before for his Goodness and Mercy towards me, in giving me Victory over mine Enemies ) At four the Wind was at S. W. and at six in the Evening at W. At eight the Wind was N. W. and by N. and N. N.E. Then I got two Luff Tackles, and got the Starbord Tacks Aboard, and stood the Westward, and I prayed to God for his protection,

tection, to keep me clear from my blood-thirsty Enemies, and for a fair Wind.

Then I ordered the Boy to walk upon Deck, and to look after the *French man* at the Helm, and I went down into the Fore-Castle, and hove all the moveable things that I could get upon the Scuttle, over the *French men*; and I went up and layd and barr'd or naild all the Scuttles in the upper Deck.

Then I knew my self safe from them that were in the Hold; for I considered, that if they should break through the lower Deck (which I thought they could not) yet they could not possibly get through the upper Deck without the Assistance of God Almighty.

At ten at night the Wind veered to the Westward, at eleven the Wind was at West; then I took the Larbord Tacks aboard, and having a Top-Gallant Gale, I had the Sails Trimm'd in a quarter of an hours time. At one the Wind was W. S. W. a Topfail Gale; at two in the Morning, I had as much Wind as I could carry the Topsayls with a Reef in of each, for the *French-men* had taken in a Reef of each Topfail, before I retook the Ship, and I kept them in for the more ease, in handling the Ship. The Wind held fresh and the Dauning broke very high, and the Clouds lookt very dark, and showry, and cleared up in the Northward board, which made me afraid that the Wind would be N. W. and Blow so hard that I should not be able to handle the Ship, with the Boy, and *French man*, but I put my trust in the Lord for his Assistance.

At six the Wind was at W. and blew hard in Showers, and I let three or four Showers pass, without lowering either of the Top-fails: At eight the Wind was at N. W. and blew very hard, but still I Carried more Sail than I would have done, if I had had eight *English-men* on Board, for I kept up the Topfail, till at last the Wind in the Showers did put the Gunhil of the Ship in the Water, and then I hawld down the Topfail, and clewd up the Sheets, and brac'd them a back, till each Shower was over, and then hawld home the Sheet and up with the Topfail again, and this I did for four or five hours going, which made the Ship Leak so very much, that I and the  
Boy,

Boy, were forc'd to Pump always between Showers, and yet could not keep her free; The Boy Cryed many times that I would carry the Topmast by the Board or the Ship to pieces. I told him I did not fear the Top Mast, but if they went by the Board, I could not help that, for now was the time to carry the Topails, and carry them I would, as long as the Gunhil was above Water, for I had rather carry the Ship in pieces than be driven a Shore in *France*.

At nine the Wind was at N. N. W. and at N. and blew harder; then I took in the two Topails, and the Wind increasing, I hawld down the Mizzen, and after we had Pumpt out the Water, vve sat down and eat some Bread, and drank a Glas of Wine to refresh our selves, and I took Brandy and Butter and rub'd it into my Hands, and especially into my left Thumb, vvhich vvvas strained by the Man that had his Throat cut, and bruised by the Boy, vvhen he mist his blow at the Mans Head, so that it vvvas much swell'd, and inrag'd, and my Hand sore vvith Pumping and doing other Work, for the Wind novv blew dry.

At tvo in the Afternoon, the Wind vvvas at N. N. W. and Lynn'd a little; I call'd the Boy to hold on the Mizzen Jacks, and as I vvvas hoyfting the Mizzen, I lookt out upon the Luff, and savv Land, and after I set the Mizzen, I vvvent up into the Main-Top, and there made it to be the Start, vvhich I thought vvvas the joyfullest sight that ever I saw; then I hove out the Main Topfail, and went down, and sent up the Boy, and hove out the Topfail, and I and the Boy set them to get in with the shore; yet the Wind blew very hard, and if all our own Crew of Men, had been on Board, I am sure we should have carried two Coasts and a Mizzen at the most; At four I and the Boy bent the Cables, and we vvvere sufficiently Washt in doing of it. At six the Berry-Head bore N. N. W. distance four Leagues. In the Night the Wind veerd N. and N. N. E. and N. E. and N. W. and after twelve at Night, it proved little Wind; in the dawning of the day the Wind blew very hard at North-west which compell'd me to furl both Top-fails: This being *Tuesday* at eight in the Morning, I being then about three Leagues South-East from  
*Lyme*

*Lyme* the Wind grew calm; at Noon we had a little Breez of Wind North-East and North-North-East; At two I saw a great Ring about the Sun and broke in the East-South-East and look'd but indifferent, but however I did hope to be up with *Topsham-bar* before Night, and thereupon I sent up the Boy, and let out the Reef of the Main Top-sail, and made all the sail that I could, except the Reef in the Foretop-sail: At three I had a Top-Gallant Gale at East-South-East: At four I saw the ring Round the Sun again, and broke in the South-South-East, and the Southward Board look'd very grim, and having a whole night in hand made me wish that I had six *English* Men on board, for now I was hardly able to lift up my Hands to my Head, by reason of my frequent Pumping, and for want of Sleep, but the hopes of getting in over the Bar that Night, and bringing of such unheard of News to my native Country, did revive my Spirits, and my joy increast very much.

At six I bid the Boy fire a Pattereroe three times, which spent all the Powder I had on board, and the *French* Ancient tied in a Red Sash, I put out for a Whiff, for the *Pilates* to come off; but by all the Sail that I could make, I got no neerer than a Mile to the Bar, in the dimps of the Night; then I went up to the Top mast head to see, if I could perceive the *Pilates* Boat coming off, but because I could not shew an *English* Ancient they were afraid to come out, but lay upon their Oars neer the Bar, as afterwards was known, so that I could not see them, and night coming on, or else I would (through the assistance of God) have ventured to have carried the Ship in over the Bar my self.

Then I got the Larboard Tacks aboard (thinking to go into *Torbay*) and I ordered the Boy to Furl the Sprift-sail, and Mizen Top-sail, and kept her close by the Wind, for to have a good offing, that I might have time to Furl all to the Main Sail, and that hawl'd down before I did come to an Anchor; at eight I took in the Main Top-sail; at nine having a good offing, I took in the Fore-top-sail; but I considered that it was not best to go into *Torbay*, because the Sheet Cable was carried away by the *French* Privateer, and the small Bower not fit for Ocam, and having only the best Bower,



to trust to, and it was to be doubted, whether that would bring her up or not, and many casualties might fall out besides, and if that did bring her up, I thought I might sink to an Anchor (if the Storm did increase, as now it blew a Reef Top-sail Gale) for want of help, for I had no Powder to fire the Patereroe to invite Men on Board; so I kept her along with two Coasts and a Mizen, in hopes that the Wind would not blow so hard, but that I should be able to carry that Sail, and keep her between *Dartmouth*, and *Topsham*: Before day, the Wind Vearing to the Southward, at eleven in the night, I was about half a mile off of *Dartmouth* Range, the Wind blew hard, and I strived to put her about three times, but could not make the Ship to stay, which caused me to send the Boy up to loose the Fore-top-sail, and after it was safe with one Reef in, she staid, and in half an hours time, (with the assistance of God) I had two Coasts, and Mizen trim'd, but I clew'd up the Fore-top-sail Sheets, and brac't him aback (for the ease of the Vessel, because she leakt very much) and I had not much hast in my way, because the Wind was South-South-East and blew very hard.

At one in the Morning, I put the *French* Man to the Helm, and hid the Blunderbuss, and carried the Boy up with me, into the Main Top, to help Reef the Main-Top sail, and in less than an hours time, I had taken two Reefs in of it, for if the Storm did increase, or held as it was, so that the *Pylot* could not come on Board, I would hawl up the two Coasts and Mizen and carry the Ship in over the Bar, with two Reef Top-sails.

After three I bore away for the Bar of *Topsham*, thinking to go in over the Bar in the Morning tide, but by five the Wind Lin'd. At six I sent up the Boy to loose the Main-Top-sail; At seven I let out the Reefs of both Top-sails, and made all the Sail that I could, but the Wind dying away so, I did not fetch the Bar before ten of the Clock, which was too late for that Tide.

At which time the *Pilot* was coming on Board, but seeing no Colours, nor no Men upon Deck but my self and the Boy,  
 E they

they were afraid, and were rowing away from me : But *I* being in Hail of them, *I* askt them what they were afraid of, and why they should not come on Board ? They hearing me call to them in *Englisb*, they lay still upon their Oars till *I* came up with them, and seeing me and the Boy which they knew, they enquired for the Master : *I* told them he might be carried into *France* by this time.

And after they came on Board, *I* gave them an account of all the proceedings, which made them all in amaze, and they would hardly believe it ; but to put them out of all doubt, *I* shewed them the five Prisoners, whom the *Pilots* would have had me let them out to work ; but *I* refus'd to do that, till the Ship was in over the Bar, because they should not see how the Bar did lie, for fear they might become *Pilots*, and go in with their Boats hereafter, and so burn or carry away our Ships.

This Discourse being ended, the *Pilot* would have had me gone to Sleep, for they perceived by my countenance, that *I* stood in need of it ; but the joy of having six *Englisb* Men on Board banisht all sleepiness from me.

Half an hour after ten *I* sent two of the *Pilots* a shore, one to bring me some help on Board, and the other to ride to *Exeter* with a Letter, which *I* wrote to the Owners of the Ship ; who *I* thought would have been very well pleased with the News ; but they gave him but a *French* half Crown and a Shilling for carrying the News to them eleven Miles ; for they did not much regard the News, having ensured five hundred and sixty Pounds upon the Ship ; and two Men since appraised her but at one hundred and seventy Pounds.

The Post Master of *Exon* hearing of my retaking the Ship, sent for the *Pilot*, to be informed by him of the particulars relating thereunto, who through forgetfulness, gave him an imperfect account of the action ; but in the Letter *I* sent to the  
Owners,

Owners, I gave an account of all, except the action, and both these sent by an Express to *London*, and Printed in the *Gazette*, which *Pilots* account differed from this my relation.

I staid without the Bar, till four in the afternoon, and then we went for the Bar; and after I was got over in safety and Land-lockt (and many People on Board who were desirous to see the *French Men*) I ript off the Plank which was nail'd over the Hold, and the Prisoners came up to the confirmation of the truth of this relation.

By five, I was at an Anchor at *Staircross*, and as many People on Board as could well stand, and immediately I sent the Prisoners to *Topsham* in the Custom-House-Wherry, that the Doctors might take care of their Wounds.

At six, I put all the People ashore, except the Boy, and their Majesties Officers, whom I left on Board, and I went to *Topsham*, where I found my Prisoners, with a Doctor dressing their Wounds; upon searching, he concluded two of them could not live a week: But as soon as I came in, those that were clear of the Doctor, put off their Hats, and kist my Hands, and shew'd a great deal of Love to me outwardly. After I had seen them dress'd, and good Lodging provided for them, I went home to refresh my self with Sleep, and the next day I marcht my Prisoners to *Exeter*, and carried them to one of the owners Houses, and afterwards delivered them to the Major.

I was Creditably inform'd, that while I was at *Exeter* the Owners sent a Man on Board the Ship, who perswaded the Boy to go on shore with him, under pretence to drink with him, but his intent was to take possession of the Ship, on the behalf of the Owners, vvho sent him thither for that very purpose. But the Surveyor of their Majesties Custom House, chancing to be there, he caus'd five Tides-Men to be put on Board, and so prevented their design. Then they gave out a report that they vvould arrest me, because I vvould not let them put a Master

over me in the Ship to bring her to *London*, concluding that I could not find Bail; but they hearing that I had got Bail in case they did proceed, desisted there design again.

So soon as the Ovvners of the Cargo (vvho lived in *London*) heard of the arrival of the Ship, they got a Protection, and sent it to a Friend of theirs in *Exon*, to deliver to me to get Men to bring the Ship to *London*, but the Man to vvhom the Protection vvvas sent, being influenc'd by the Ovvners, gave the Protection to them, vvwhich they sent back to *London*, and endeavoured to get another in the room of it, in the name of one vvhom they intended to make Master of the Ship; (who had insured tvvo hundred Pound for his Brother the Master of the said Ship that vvvas carried into *France*) but they finding that they could not get another Protection granted them, then that procured in my name vvvas sent dovvvn; after it vvvas detained a considerable time from me, it vvvas delivered me, vvwith an order to ship Men, vvwhom I got, and the Ship being ready to Sail vvwith the first fair Wind, and a strong Gale, if a Convoy did not present; but they vvould not let me stay, to see the Wind settle, but forc't me out on the fifth of *April*, vvwith the first spurt of a fair Wind, and on the sixth day of the same in the Morning being off of *Portland* having a contrary Wind, I bore up again, and on the seventh I vvvent in over the Bar of *Topsbam* again.

I had not been three hours at an Anchor before there came tvvo *French* Privateers, from the Eastvvvard vvwith *Engli'sh* Colours, supposed to be King *James* Privateers, because they vvvere for the most part man'd vvwith *Irisb* Men, and they vvvent along about a League from the Bar, and vvvent into *Torbay*, and took, and carried avvay vvwith them tvvo *Engli'sh* Ships vvwhich came from *Oporto*; and my Ovvners hearing thereof, and that I vvvas in safety, were very angry vvwith me, and hust at me, because I did not stay to be a Prey to the Enemy.

On the nineteenth of *April* I went out over the Bar again, vvwith the Wind West South-West a Top-sail Gale; on the tvventieth



twentyeth I went into the *Isle of Wight* in hopes to have found some Ships bound to the Eastward, but found none; on the twenty first, with a Strong South West-Wind, I went out again, and got into the *Downs* on the twenty second, and arrived at *London* the twenty sixth; and when I came ashore to the Freighters, that had an hundred and fifteen Pipes of Wine on Board, they did not so much as bid me welcome, but bid me go to the Custom-house, and enter the Cargo, for they said they would unlade the Ship forth-with.

Then I asked them for Money to pay the Men, that helpt to bring the Ship to *London*, but they denied to give me any.

There was besides the Merchants Wine, two Pipes of the Masters, that was in all one hundred and seventeen Pipes, eight Tun of Shumach, and Cork, which paid the King in Duties one thousand Pounds. Then I asked the Merchants again for Money, to pay the Men ( who belonged to Men of War ) which they again refused to pay.

On the twenty seventh betimes in the Morning, came one of the Freighters on Board with his Cooper, who tasted all the Wine that he could come at, and the Cooper said, he never knew Wine come home in a better condition in his life time than that did.

The Freighter having one Lighter by the Ships side, and another coming aboard, he bid me to get Men, to put the Wine, and other goods into the Lighters, for he said he intended to have it all out in twenty four hours time.

I perceiving his intention was to get the Cargo into his possession, before I should get any Friends, I said, Sir, I have ventured my life to save the Ship and Cargo, for that which was mine on Board was most of it carried away, and what was left I have drunk out to save the Cargo, for I have not drawn one Glas of the Wine belonging to the Cargo, and you see that the Wine is Good, and the Pipes full, and the Privateer carried but one Pipe of yours, out of a hundred and sixteen and, therefore

fore it is reason that I should have my loss made good out of the Cargo ; for I have more adventure Money to pay, than my Wages will come too : Tush, he answered, all the reason is, yours is carried away, and mine is left, and if mine had been carried away, and yours left I could not have helped it.

I knowing his mind I said no more, but told him I would go on Shore, to get Men to Load the Lighter ; but my intent was to deliver a Letter that I had to an Honourable Person, for his favour and assistance in this troublesome affair of mine.

But meeting with a Gentleman to whom I shewed the direction of the Letter, and gave an account of my proceedings, he went with me and entred an action in the High Court of Admiralty of one thousand Pounds, upon Ship and Cargo, and by the assistance of an honorable person I brought it to a trial, and overthrew the Owners and Freighters, for half the Ship and Cargo ; but they appealed to the High Court of Chancery, and having nothing of truth, disgraced me ; withall they inform'd the Lords Commissioners that I took a Bag of Money out of the Ship belonging to the Owners, which the Master told me he deliver'd to the Lieutenant of the Privateer. But I having no proof against the same, this did me a great diskindness ; yet I overthrew them there for the moiety of the Ship and Cargo, and had a Decree for the same, which Decree is inrolled, and so is become a President in that Court, which will be an advantage to any one, that shall hereafter retake their Ship from the Enemy ; if they sue them in Chancery or the High Court of Admiralty for Salvage, they will be allowed as much as if it were taken by a Privateer.

Two days after I cast them in the High Court of Admiralty ; they gave out a false report concerning me, how that I had no Conduct, for I run my Ship with full Sail, aboard another Ship, that was moor'd in the *Thames*, Loaden with the Kings Provisions and sunk her ; whereupon the Owners of the Sunk Ship by the wicked instigation of my Adversaries arrested me on the nineteenth of *June*, in an Action of four hundred Pounds, through my Adversaries

saries persuasions, supposing I could not find Bail, but must have gone to Prison, and then they were in hopes of having their designs upon me; but I being bailed contrary to their expectation I was obliged to stay till *Michaelmas* Term following, before I could bring it to a Trial, to my great expence and loss of time; and I cast them by the evidence of five Witnesses, who made it appear that the said Ship was not sunk by me, and so I ended my Law and the greatest part of my Money together.

By the favour of an Honourable Person I was introduced to the Right Noble the Marquis of *Carmarthen*, who recommended my Case to Her Majesty, who was pleased as a Token of her Extraordinary Favour to Order me a Gold Medal and Chain, and recommended me to the Right Honourable the Lords of the Admiralty for Preferment in the Fleet, which I am now attending the Honourable Board for.

Thus I have endeavoured to give an impartial Account of the whole matter of fact, from first to last, ascribing all my Success therein to the Omnipotent Power of the Great God, who was with me, and protected me throughout the whole Action, and made me capable of performing this piece of Service for my King and Country, in whose Defence I am still willing to serve, and shall, as long as I remain to be

R. L.

F I N I S.

## ADVERTISEMENT.

**W**Hereas there has been a Report industriously spread abroad, that it was the Boy that perswaded me to retrieve our Selves ; This is to satisfie the Reader, that that Report was maliciously reported of me, and was not true ; for it was the Boy of another Ship ( called the Trial, of fifty Tuns ) that did desire his Master to fall upon five French Men, and accordingly they did, and overcame them, and brought their Ship into Falmouth ; for which the Master was immediately made Commander of the Mary Gally ; and I that had used the Sea thirteen years, did but desire the Command of a Fire-Ship.

I did design to have given the Reader a more large account of our sufferings in France, but that it was already Published by Richard Strutton, who has given a true Relation of the Cruelties and Barbarities of the French, upon the English Prisoners of War. Printed for Richard Baldwin.

Books Printed for Richard Baldwin near the Oxford Arms in Warwick-Lane.

**A**N Account of the late terrible Earthquake in Sicily ; with most of its Particulars. Done from the Italian Copy, Printed at Rome.

*Victorie Anglicane* : being an Historical Collection of all the Memorable and Stupendous Victories obtain'd by the English against the French, both by Sea and Land, since the Norman Conquest, viz. I. Between K. Henry II. and Robert of Normandy. II. At Morkis. III. At the Rescue of Calice. IV. At Poitiers. V. At Cressy. VI. At Agincourt. VII. At the Mouth of the River Seine. VIII. At Vernuil. IX. At Cravant. X. At the Relief of Orleans, with the great Actions of the Lord Salisbury and Talbot. XI. Of Spurs. Dedicated to all the Commission'd Officers of the Maritime and Land Forces.



